



REMEMBER : THE : MAIN

PLACE TO DO YOUR TRADING IS
WHERE YOU CAN GET GOOD
GOODS, THE BEST GOODS AND
MOST GOODS FOR YOUR MONEY.

So don't lose any time looking for that place,
just go down to Gray's, where you will find the
best selected stock of goods ever handled by
that firm.

Dress Goods Dept.

This department is complete in every de-
tail; if you want to see the *Prettiest Patterns* ever
in Vinita you should not fail to look through
this department. A well assorted line of prints
always found in this store.

A Special Offer.

For two weeks I will have a Bargain Coun-
ter in Dress Goods; don't miss this opportunity
of buying the best goods for the least money
ever offered in Vinita.

Do you want a pair of Blankets or Comforts? I
have them at all prices; see my 50c Blankets.
My stock of Ladies' and Children's Underwear is
complete and well selected.

Kid Gloves in black, tan, brown chocolate and white.
Yes, I have hair nets.

It will soon be time to buy your winter supply of
Cotton and Wool Flannels and Domestic; don't fail to
see my line.

Shoe Department.

My line of heavy and medium shoes for
ladies, gents and children was never more com-
plete; the *best line* in the west.

Also rubbers for men, women and children.

Gent's Staple Goods.

This department is complete in Underwear,
Jeans Pants, Overalls, Duck Coats, Hats, Caps,
Gloves and Shirts.

Grocery Dept.

This department receives careful attention
and is always full of the freshest Groceries to be
found on the market. For a delicious drink try
Cupid Coffee, the leading brand.

Yours to please,

J. C. GRAY

THE CURTIS LAW IS A CALAMITY.

A Pandora's Box Opened in Indian Country.

The Communal Interests of the Past Displaced by Recent Legislation of Congress, and Outsiders Placed on the Same Plane as the Natives.

EDITOR CHIEFTAIN:—My last ar-
ticle closed with a thought like
this: the Cherokee body politic be-
ing abolished, the Cherokees, as a
people, have no longer any distinct
public weal to care for; their terri-
tory is now occupied by a govern-
ment, (whatever it is,) which is
not particularly Cherokee, but
common to both the whites and the
Indians; there is now no pub-
lic interest to which, in reason,
the Indians should be required to
contribute any more than the
white men.

Now, it may be noticed that I
have here made use of the phrase,
"public interest;" I confess, how-
ever, that I did so more from the
force of habit, than at the instance
of any correct idea; for within that
small space upon the earth's late-
ly known as the "Cherokee na-
tion," there is no such thing as a
public, or common interest among
the people. The phrase, "public
interest," (the good of the pub-
lic,) and the like, always imply,
in their use, some sort of organized
society, some kind of body politic,
usually, in this country, a consti-
tutional civil government. In
speaking of a merely fortuitous,
unorganized concourse of human
beings, these terms would be ob-
viously improper; because there
would be no such thing as a pub-
lic or common interest among
them. Aside from the bonds of
consanguinity and affinity, there
would be no ties to bind them into
any social body. The individual
would be under no obligation to
the crowd, nor the crowd to the
individual. The only "interest,"
the only well being, that can be
conceived of as existing among
them, would be strictly individual
and personal; the maxim, "every
man for himself," would be their
only rule of conduct.

The analogy between this form
of human society and a herd of ir-
rational animals, is very striking;
and we shall see that this resem-
blance has something of a practi-
cal application before we get
through.

Prior to the enactment of the
Curtis law, the people of this
country were socially organized;
they were living under what was
known as the Cherokee govern-
ment. But the spirit of that leg-
islation was decidedly destructive;
its aim was not to build up, pro-
tect and preserve; but rather to
pull down, undo and annihilate.
It swept, in effect, over this terri-
tory like a devastating tornado.
There was no kind of obstacle,
however formidable, that caused
it to falter, or hesitate, for a mo-
ment. It kicked aside the Dece-
logue and all the fundamental
principles of God's moral universe,
as worthless obsolescences; laws
and constitutions were but vapor;
solemn contracts and treaties were
smoke; plighted faith, moonshine;
national honor, staked as a guar-
antee, it trampled underfoot as the
merest trash.

Of course the Cherokee govern-
ment had to go down before the
blast, carrying along with it all
the precious freight of human
rights and interests that had been
embarked upon it by the honest
industries of more than a century;
its laws were abrogated, as though
by a stroke of lightning; the ancient
conventional bonds that held the
Cherokee people together in a civil-
ized form of social organization,
were suddenly smitten into disso-
lution; and we now have the re-
sulting spectacle before us. Let
us endeavor to get an adequate
conception of it.

We now have here a race of men
—Indians? Blanketed "bucks"?
The targets of civilization's "pro-
gressive" rifle?—not at all; by no
means; but men of enlightened as-
pirations and civilized habits of
life; men of learning and refine-
ment; men of industry, forecast
and business enterprise; men, un-
der the happy touch of whose fos-
tering fingers, this late wilderness
has been made to blossom forth in

fruitful farms; men who, actuated
by the noble impulses of the high-
er life, have dotted the face of
their country with churches,
school houses, seminaries, col-
leges and asylums for the unfor-
tunate; men who appreciate law
and civil liberty, and who have,
from time immemorial, been
schooled in the art, and to relish
the privilege of self-government;
men too, who hold that no govern-
ment is worthy of trust, that does
not derive its right and power to
govern from the governed; men,
finally, who, we can but sincerely
believe, are worthy of some de-
gree of reasonable consideration in
the councils of the federal govern-
ment.

But what now, has this mis-
erable Curtis law done with all this
noble people? It has disbanded
them as a nation; abolished their
social organization, and reduced
them to the condition, (in a legal
sense,) of a mere band of strolling
savages, nay a herd of prone cat-
tle, and has placed over them a
special executive agent, (well, a
herdsman,) with authority to pre-
scribe, direct and compel, what
they shall and shall not have,
do, or enjoy. They are allowed
no voice in making the laws by
which they are governed; no voice
in the selection of the men that
rule over them; no voice in the
choice of the magistrate who is to
try and sentence them; no voice as
to who shall be the hangman that
is to give them their passport into
eternity; no more voice than so
many rats, in anything of a politi-
cal nature.

It is not easy for one who has
no personal knowledge of the facts,
to get anything like an adequate
idea of the humiliating condition
to which these Cherokee people
have been reduced by this unjust
law. For the purpose of aiding
the apprehension of such an one
in this regard, let us suppose a
case.

Say that the home state of Capt.
McKennon, Senator Jones and
Judge Little, should be visited by
a calamity somewhat like this
Curtis law which they deem to be
so handsome and wholesome for
the Cherokees; that the govern-
ment of that state should, by some
competent power, be suddenly
abolished, its laws abrogated, its
revenues suspended, its public
moneys locked up, its public
schools ignored and Cherokee
schools established in Little Rock,
Fort Smith and all the other towns
of the state, to be supported by a
tax saddled upon the white in-
habitants of these cities by Cherokee
Indian votes; that the people of
the state should be politically dis-
franchised, denied the right to
vote for president, or a senator, or
a member of congress; that the
laws of the Cherokee nation should
be put into force in that state, (as
far as applicable,) and that a
Cherokee executive agent should
be commissioned and sent into the
state, with authority to perambu-
late, the country on tours of in-
spection, to see that the whitest
governor and the different state
officials generally, abstain from
everything like the exercise of a
public duty, except by first ob-
taining the consent of this arbi-
trary, sovereign power.

That is enough; though the
statement of the whole case is far
from complete.

Such is an imperfect picture of
the Cherokee country, the political
condition of the Cherokee people,
today only viewed from a stand-
point on the other side of the
fence.

convenience, now and then, grow-
ing out of their incapability.
This, as a trouble under the Ar-
kansas law in this country, is
something more than a mere
fiction. An incident occurred but
a few days ago between two Chero-
kee citizens which will illustrate
this point.

Sky-in-the-water had a herd of
hogs; they must have been the
children of that unfortunate troop
that galloped down into the sea
and were choked; for they were
certainly possessed of a very bad
spirit. They hit upon a plan of
stealing into Bigcloud's potato
patch at the dead hours of night,
and devouring the man's family
tubers. Bigcloud called on Sky-
in-the-water for damages and a suit
ensued. But the Curtis law had
kicked the Cherokee judges out of
the court house and overturned
the benches of Indian jurispru-
dence. Of course, the case had to
come before the white man's court,
and be tried according to the white
man's law. The magistrate, after
maturely considering the case,
found that the Arkansas law was
not "applicable;" there was, not-
withstanding the time-honored
maxim, a wrong without a remedy.
The case was dismissed; and
nightly, these days, old Bigcloud
may be seen sitting in his potato
patch, dripping with the dews of
heaven, keeping a nodding watch
over his garden, waiting and pray-
ing for Charley Curtis to come
down from Kansas and bring along
a little piece of additional law for
the protection of his "taters."

But I have digressed far enough;
I will return to my subject—town-
sites.

The Curtis law has not only
abolished all social organization
among the Cherokees, and handed
them over disfranchised into the
hands of the executive for arbi-
trary management, but also lays
hands upon their private property,
as though it were a mere treasure-
trove.

"Said commissions," says the
act, "shall cause to be surveyed
and laid out townsites where towns
will, a present population of two

hundred, or more, are located,
giving to each town such territory
as may be required for its present
needs and reasonable prospective
growth."

Let it now be noticed that the
provisions of this section of the
law are couched in the most gen-
eral terms, so general as to be, in
some respects, hopelessly ambigu-
ous. The "present population" con-
templated may consist of any
variety of people on earth; the
number of these townsites to be
reserved is without any limitation,
the amount of land that each shall
contain is equally boundless; the
places too, where these town re-
serves are to be located, is a mat-
ter entirely at the discretion of
these two hundred present in-
habitants.

Again, these town commis-
sioners are authorized "to cause town-
sites to be surveyed and laid out"
where towns of two hundred in-
habitants "are located." Here
there is a serious ambiguity in lan-
guage, a very discreditable mark
by no means uncommon through-
out the whole text of the Curtis
law. The tense of the expression
is present; but every coming day
throughout all future eternity will
be present when it arrives. Of a
few cities founded today, we shall
be able to say tomorrow, they
"are located;" and of a like num-
ber founded next week, we can say
the same the week following, they
"are located;" and in all such
cases the town commissioners are
authorized to slice out of the estate
of these Indians a dozen, or so, of
square miles as a townsite
for the benefit of these two hun-
dred inhabitants. How much it
would have simplified this ques-
tion had Mr. Curtis simply said
"are located at the time this act
shall go into effect!" But that
was not the spirit of the legislative
mind.

But where are these two hun-
dred inhabitants to come from.
Let us take a case which, though
imaginary, is nevertheless alto-
gether feasible under the Curtis
law.

Suppose a small colony of two

hundred white people, men, wo-
men and children, (it would not
require many families,) should
rise up from anywhere in Arkan-
sas, Texas, or Kansas, and swing
in upon these Cherokee lands, and
pitch their tents in some of our
fertile valleys, around and about
the premises of one, or more, of
our Indian farmers. Let them
assume a municipal name, some-
thing like the "City of David," or
"Bethlehem Judah;" and in many
other ways put on the airs, and
affect the behavior of a real city.

Now, a few questions, and I
have done for this time.

What would there be to hinder
these people from calling upon the
secretary of the interior for the
appointment of this town commis-
sioner of three, and causing here a
townsite of several miles square to
be laid out around themselves and
including the farms of these In-
dian citizens? And when this
townsite is once quartered into
lots, what would there be to hin-
der them from putting these lots
up for sale at public auction, and
bidding them in to themselves,
and at such price as their commu-
nity might see fit to combine and
agree upon?

But the predicament of those
Indian citizens—that would be
truly interesting, yet not very
hard to understand and appreci-
ate. Of course, they would be
utterly helpless. The lots that
might happen fall within the lim-
its of their farm enclosures, they
would lose, unless they should be
able to bid them in at their ap-
praised value; for the fencing and
tillage would not, under the law,
be such improvement as would
take them out of the class of un-
improved lots. The lot, or lots,
upon which their dwelling houses
might be found, to be standing—
these, I suppose, (though it does
not seem to be altogether certain,)
they might be allowed to retain by
paying one half of the appraised
value into the United States treas-
ury at St. Louis.

Too-QUA-STEE.

\$1 a year—if paid in advance.

Awarded
Highest Honors—World's Fair,
Gold Medal, Midwinter Fair.

DR.
PRICE'S
CREAM
BAKING
POWDER
A Pure Grape Cream of Tartar Powder.
40 YEARS THE STANDARD.

Discovered by a Woman.
Another great discovery has been
made, and that too by a lady of this
country. "Disease fastened its
clutches upon her and for seven years
she withstood its severest tests, but
her vital organs were undermined and
death seemed imminent. For three
months she coughed incessantly, and
could not sleep. She finally discover-
ed a way to recover by purchasing
from us a bottle of Dr. King's New
Discovery for consumption, and was
so much relieved on taking the first
dose, that she slept all night; and with
two bottles has been absolutely cured.
Her name is Mrs. Lutter Lutz."
Thus writes W. C. Hamrick & Co., of
Shelby, N. C. Trial bottles free at A.
W. Foreman's drug store. Regular
size 50c and \$1. Every bottle guaran-
teed.

W. B. Coley and Al Munger went to
Pryor Creek and spent last Saturday
in the field, bagging a couple of dozen
prairie chickens. They were not un-
mindful of the fact that some of their
friends who are "not much" as hun-
ters have a tooth for chicken never-
theless.

Ballard's Horehound Syrup is not a
mixture of stomach destroying drugs,
but is a scientifically prepared reme-
dy that cures coughs and colds, and
all throat and lung troubles. Its ac-
tion is quick, prompt and positive. 25
and 50c. P. Shanahan.

Will Strothers is enjoying a very
good drug trade at Afton.

Boggs' German Salve
is an invaluable remedy for cuts, burns,
bruises, scalds, chapped hands, sore nip-
ples, sore lips, eczema, ulcers, chronic
sores, skin eruptions, fever sores and all
skin diseases.

A CAR LOAD

OF

....STOVES

JUST UNLOADED BY

W. W. MILLER

And a Sample of Nearly Every Style is now on Display.
They Embrace

**Cook Stoves, Ranges and
.....Heaters
Coal or Wood**



I Still Handle the
Famous

**Buck's
Brilliant,**

but have also a number of other
popular brands.

I can sell you a stove for less money than ever before.
Come and make an inspection.

W. W. MILLER

Yellow Jaundice Cured.

Suffering humanity should be sup-
plied with every means possible for
its relief. It is with pleasure we
publish the following: "This is to
certify that I was a terrible sufferer
from yellow jaundice for over six
months, and was treated by some of
the best physicians in our city and all
to no avail. Dr. Bell, our druggist,
recommended Electric Bitters and
after taking two bottles I was entire-
ly cured. I now take pleasure in
recommending them to any person
suffering from this terrible malady.
I am, gratefully yours, M. A. Hogarty,
Lexington, Ky." Sold by A. W.
Foreman, druggist.

Sister Allen was robbed of \$40 at a
colored revival at Muskogee one night
last week.

Ballard's Snow Liniment will cure
lame back, sore throat, wounds,
sprains, bruises, cuts, old sores. Ladies
it will cure your backache. 25 & 50c.
P. Shanahan.

A meeting of the Fishermen, or An-
nias club, has been called to dis-
cuss one of its most active members
for a very grave offense. Ming has
gone to work, and may next be de-
tected bringing in stove wood for his
wife.



The Pinnacle has been
Reached

by us in perfection
of the Laundry
Work, and we can adopt the device
"Excelsior" as a trade mark, but pre-
fer to make our exquisite color and
quality of finish, that is unequalled in
Vinita, the best trade mark that we
could adopt. It is unapproachable in
careful work and exquisite beauty of
detail in fine finish and snowy whiteness
on collar, shirt front or cuff.

EXCELSIOR
Steam Laundry.

Leave us 10c Telephone for Wagon
Phone No. 8.

Is your liver tired? Does it fail to
do its duty? If so, don't neglect its
call for help. A few doses of Herbine
may save you a spell of sickness. Her-
bine is the only perfect liver medicine.
It cures chills and fever. 50c.
P. Shanahan.

Smith & Leforce have received an
order for one hundred cars of "dis-
tillery hay" (inferior) to be shipped to
Peoria.

Is your child puny, pecked and pee-
vish? Does it fret and cry without
seeming cause? Does it have convul-
sions? If so it has worms and White's
Cream Vermifuge will safely expel
them and restore its health. 25c. P.
Shanahan.

Afton is fortunately situated in the
matter of building stone. A short
distance from town a very beautiful
blue limestone is obtained, which
makes a very handsome wall.

It is true that others imitate the meth-
ods employed in advertising Boggs' Ger-
man salve, others claim to heal and to
cure disease because Boggs' German
salve, the one true ointment, has been
so wonderfully successful. But in thou-
sands and thousands of cases, as shown by
grateful testimonials, Boggs' German
salve actually and permanently cures
when other medicines fail to do any good
whatsoever.

A great many railroad laborers who
have been employed on the Sapulpa
extension are now making their way
back east.

Tabler's Buckeye Pile Ointment re-
lieves the intense itching. It soothes,
it heals, it cures chronic cases when
surgeons fail. It is a scientific cer-
tainty. Its sales increase through its
cures. It is no experiment. Every
bottle guaranteed. 50c. Tubes, 75c.
P. Shanahan.

Two trains of soldiers went through
town late Friday night—early Sat-
urday morning. They had no horses.

Buoklen's Arnica Salvo.

The best salve in the world for cuts
bruises, sores, ulcers, salt rheum, fever
sores, tetter, chapped hands, chil-
blains, corns, and all skin eruptions,
and positively cures piles, or no pay
required. It is guaranteed to give
perfect satisfaction or money refund-
ed. Price 25 cents per box. For sale
by A. W. Foreman, druggist.

Foreman carries nothing but the
freshest and best drugs, and his pre-
scription department is conducted in
the most careful manner.